2.—FOREST BOUNDARIES.

47. A special forest boundary-mark has been prescribed for the Northern Circle, a specification of which is given in paragraph 31 of the Forest Administration Report for the year 1886 87, and in order to make the indication of the boundary lines clearer the following supplementary instructions were given during the year:—

(1). Three small stones are to be embedded in the ground at distances of six feet apart from the sides of the cairn, and to show a few inches above ground, in order to serve as pointers, to point out the direction of the boundary lines from the centre of the cairn.

(2). A dab of red colour to be given annually to each of the pointers at the time that the centre or indicating stone of the boundary cairn is colour-washed.

The work of demarcation by the erection of forest boundary-marks was carried on vigorously in the several divisions of the Northern Circle, in accordance with the standing orders. 33,958 boundary cairns, both large and small, were erected during the year at a cost of Rs. 11,948, as will be seen from the following table :—

No.	Division.	Length of Boundaries in Miles.	Number of Cairns erected.			Cost.		
			Large.	Small.	Total.			
						Rs.	a.	p.
1	North Thána	46	976	...	976	744	1	6
2	South Thána	95	800	1,680	2,480	1,249	10	0
3	East Khándesh	40	1,648	...	1,648	615	10	6
4	West Khándesh	469	566	943	1,509	481	10	0
5	Násik	713	778	10,634	11,412	3,554	3	2
6	Ahmednagar	52	202	412	614	271	2	6
7	Poona	581	1,786	7,007	8,793	2,809	10	9
8	Sátára	28	44	1,319	1,363	145	14	1
9	Sholápur	99	1,463	1,030	2,493	1,326	8	0
10	Surat	8	100	...	100	58	2	0
11	Panch Maháls	134	193	2,377	2,570	691	13	0
	Total ...	2,265	8,556	25,402	33,958	11,948	5	6

48. Although the demarcation of forest boundaries upon the ground by providing outward visible signs of forest reservation in the shape of a special forest boundary-mark, which from its peculiar construction, &c., will be known as a forest boundary-mark, wherever it may be seen, has made considerable progress, still the greater portion of this most important work remains to be undertaken, and several years must elapse before all the forest boundaries in every division are finally marked out in the manner prescribed.

3.—FOREST SETTLEMENT.

49. In the Thána Collectorate settlement inquiries were commenced in the tálukás of Máhím and Dáhánu, where the Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. Wilkins, had prepared and submitted lists of lands selected by him for permanent forest reservation in the Máhím, Dáhánu and Umbargaon Ranges, and all these forest-lands, the greater portions of which are protected forests gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act, had been notified provisionally under Section 4 of the Forest Act. The settlement inquiries which were in progress in the Váda Táluka, as recorded in paragraph 38 of last year's report, were completed during the year.

50. The reference to Government mentioned in paragraph 38, clause 2 of last year's report, regarding the decision of the Collector of Thána, was disposed of by Government, in their Resolution No. 6067, dated 7th September 1888, in the Revenue Department, referring the Conservator of Forests to the Commissioner, Northern Division, for orders. A reference was then made to the Commissioner, who in his No. 3312, dated 19th October 1888, sanctioned the appropriation, for reserved forest, of the lands in question.

51. The appeal to Government under Section 21 of the Forest Act, referred to in paragraph 38, clause 5, of last years's report in connection with certain rights in the village of Ghátkoper, awarded by the Forest Settlement Officer, was disposed of by Government during the year, in their Resolution No. 957, dated 6th February 1889, in the Revenue Department, whereby the decision of the Collector of Thána was not interfered with.

52. Ráo Sáheb Vishnu Rámchandra, Special Officer, Tánsa Water-works, has been appointed Forest Settlement Officer in respect of the occupied and other lands upon the Tánsa Lake catchment area, which have been acquired for afforestation.

53. In the Khándesh Collectorate Mr. Dodgson, C. S., has continued settlement proceedings. No rights, save of way and of water access, have been found to attach to any of the forests.

54. In the Collectorates of Násik and Ahmednagar the forest settlement has been practically completed. Certain lands, however, which have been notified recently under Section 4 were undergoing inquiries during the year.

55. In the Poona Collectorate the settlement work has been nearly completed. The reference made to Government regarding the decision of the Collector mentioned in paragraph 42, clause 2 of last year's Administration Report, was disposed of by Government Resolution No. 6067, dated 7th September 1888, Revenue Department.

56. In the Collectorates of Sátára, Sholápur, Surat and Panch Maháls no regular settlement work was undertaken during the year, beyond inquiries into rights, &c., respecting a few survey numbers which were previously occupied by survey tenants but had been recently acquired for forests and had been provisionally notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act.

57. The following statement will show the progress made during the year in forest settlements of the old forest areas which had been gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act in March 1879 :—

Class of Forest.		At the commencement of the year, Areas under Section 34 in which Private Rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	Areas settled during the year.		Area of Reserved Forests alienated under Section 26.	Area of Protected Forests disforested under Government orders.	At the end of the year Areas under Section 34 in which Private Rights have not been enquired into, settled and recorded.	Remarks.
			Chapter II of the Forest Act.	Chapter IV of the Forest Act.				
		Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	
Northern Thána...	Reserved ...	201	...	...	...	...	201	
	Protected ...	291	...	...	...	...	291	
Southern Thána...	Reserved ...	99	...	...	...	...	99	
	Protected ...	329	...	...	...	...	329	
Eastern Khándesh	Reserved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Western Khándesh	Reserved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Násik	Reserved ...	84	...	...	...	...	84	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ahmednagar ...	Reserved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Poona	Reserved ...	192	...	...	...	...	192	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sátára	Reserved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sholápur	Reserved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Surat	Reserved ...	733	...	...	...	...	733	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Panch Maháls ...	Reserved ...	152	105	...	4	...	43	
	Protected ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
	Total ...	2,081	105	...	4	...	1,972	

58. This statement does not show all the settlement work accomplished during the year, but only the progress made in the settlement of the old forest lands which had been gazetted under Section 34 of the Forest Act in March 1879.

4.—PRIVILEGES CONCEDED TO VILLAGERS.

59. Except in the Collectorates of Khándesh and Panch Mahál no changes have taken place during the year in the nature and extent of privileges previously conceded in reserved and protected forests, in all other Collectorates of the Northern Circle.

60. The code of privileges which was introduced last year in the Khándesh Collectorate under the authority of Government Resolution No. 7197, dated 22nd October 1887, was subjected to reconsideration by a Committee of local Revenue and Forest Officers, which met at Dhulia during the rains of 1888, and revisionary proposals were made to Government, which were sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 243, dated 11th January 1889, in the Revenue Department. The modifications thus effected are :—

(1*st.*) A rule that no privileged person shall be allowed to exercise his privileges by proxy, *viz.*, to send another person into the forests to take or enjoy that which has been conceded to him personally.

(2*nd.*) Interpretation given to the term "an inhabitant of a forest village" that it shall mean a permanent resident of the forest village.

(3*rd.*) Of minor forest produce, fruits of mango trees and Rosha grass are not at the disposal of privilege-holders but are reserved to Government.

(4*th.*) Four kinds of trees were added to the list of reserved trees, *viz.* Kalamb (*Nauclea parvifolia*), Háladvan (*Nauclea cordifolia*), Bor (*Zizyphus jujuba*), and Temru (*Diospyros montana*).

(5*th.*) An enhanced scale of grazing fees was introduced for professional graziers at the following rates :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cows and bullocks	0	6	0
Buffaloes	0	8	0
Calves under 1½ years	0	2	0
Sheep	0	1	0
Goats	0	4	0
Ponies, horses and donkeys ...	0	4	0

61. In the Panch Mahál Collectorate the extensive and, from a forestry point of view, destructive privileges which had been provisionally conceded in respect of the forest reservations in the Dohad and Jhálod Tálukás were confirmed during the year under the authority of Government Resolutions Nos. 332 and 815, dated 14th January and 1st February 1889. These privileges are—

(1.) *Grazing.*—Free for agricultural cattle.

(2.) *Grass-cutting.*—Free.

(3.) *Thorns and leaves.*—Free.

(4.) *Minor forest produce.*—Free, including mhowra.

(5.) *Dead wood*—Head-loads free.

(6.) *Green wood.*—To cut all but 17 kinds of reserved trees for *bonâ-fide* domestic and agricultural purposes, when the wood is not obtainable elsewhere.

(7.) *Earth and Kankar.*—Free for domestic and agricultural purposes.

62. The forests of Jhálod and Dohad Ranges occupy the sides and tops of low hills where the ground is very rough, broken and steep, and where cultivation cannot, under any devices, find a permanent abiding place. The uplands and drainage slopes, when covered by dense forest growth, serve as natural reservoirs